

**CREDITON
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

1918.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

FOR

Year ending December 31st, 1918.

REPORT FOR YEAR 1918.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present the Report for the year 1918, and I hope this will be the last of these short Reports, as the War now at last being over, there should be an opportunity in starting some real work to improve the Sanitary Condition of the District, and try for better Housing Accomodation in some of the localities where it is unsatisfactory.

BIRTHS.

The births for this year were 131, which gives a rate of 12.6 per 1000. This is extremely unsatisfactory, as the rate for England and Wales is 17.6. Besides that, it is considerably less than any in this District for several years. In fact, I should say, without a doubt, the lowest we have ever had.

DEATHS.

The number of deaths under one year is 12, with a death rate of 91.6 per 1000 births. This although being a worse per centage than any for the past five years, is considerably better than the average for the whole of the country. Out of these, there was only one from Gastritis, and none from Diarrhoea. The total number of deaths is 156, which gives a death rate of 16.8, which is not quite so satisfactory as the average of the five years previously, but is rather better than the average for the whole country. Out of these, the number of deaths between 70 and 80 years is 33

„	80	„	90	„	„	20
„	90	„	100	„	„	3

Some of the chief causes—16 from Tubercle, which is again slightly worse than last year, and I am afraid, in spite of all the money that is being spent to try and improve this state of affairs, there will be little prospect of this large per centage of deaths from Tubercle decreasing until the Housing and Town Planning Act is made compulsory throughout the country, so that it will be impossible for damp and badly ventilated houses to be occupied as they are now.

There were 12 deaths from Cancer ; 22 from Bronchitis and Pneumonia, and 2 from Suicide.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

There was one death from Typhoid, none from Small Pox, Measles, Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough, Diphtheria or Puerperal Fever, and none from Confinements.

The fact of there being no deaths from the last two causes, speaks well for the system of Midwives which is now being carried out in the country.

The extraordinary epidemic of Influenza and Pneumonia in October and November, accounts for 18 deaths directly due to Influenza, and I have no doubt some of the other cases of Pneumonia and Bronchitis were indirectly due to the same disease. For instance, in October, 16 deaths out of 20 were either from Influenza or Pneumonia.

NOTIFICATIONS.

Diphtheria	...	5	Scarlet Fever	...	14
Measles	...	49	Enteric	...	1
Small Pox	...	0	Puerperal	...	0
Cerebro-spinal	...	0			

Five cases of Diphtheria and the Typhoid case were all in Crockenwell district. The Scarlet Fever cases, all in the Morchard Bishop district, with the exception of seven, which all occurred in Chawleigh. The number of cases of Measles occurring in the district were far more than the 49 mentioned, as the first case in each house is the only one notified.

The number of cases of Tuberculosis this year were 32 compared with 23 of last year.

DRAINAGE AND WATER SUPPLY. .

Again another year has passed and no progress has been made with the serious condition of the village of Newton St. Cyres. I hope this village and Sandford will have the attention of the Council before my next Report.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT.

This is not adopted in this district, but a few cottages have been condemned during the year.

Yours faithfully,

L. POWNE, M.O.H.



TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1918 and previous Years.

Name of District—Crediton Rural.

Year	Population esti- mated to Middle of each Year	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Uncorrected Number.	Nett.				Of Non-Residents Registered in the District.	Of Residents not Registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages	
			Number.	Rate.					No.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	No.	Rate
1913	10919		210	19.2	108	9.9			6	28.9	125	11.5
1914	10919		170	15.5	128	11.7			14	82.8	143	13.1
1915	10919		215	21.4	150	14.9			18	88.3	172	17.1
1916	10644		151	14.9					12	79.8	154	14.9
1917	9274		168	16.2					10	59.5	153	16.4
1918	9235		131	12.6					12	91.6	156	16.8

Area of District in Acres (land and inland water), 93,508.

Total population at all ages, 10,639.

At Census.

Total families or separate occupiers,

1011.

TABLE III.

Infant Mortality during the Year 1918 in the
Crediton Rural District.

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under One
Year of Age.

Causes of Death.	Under 1 week	1—2 Weeks	2—3 Weeks	3—4 Weeks	Total under 4 Weeks	4 Weeks and under 3 Months	3 Months and under 6 months	6 Months and under 9 Months	9 Months and under 12 Months	Total Deaths under 1 Year
All Causes { Certified { Uncertified										
Small-pox										
Chicken-pox										
Measles										
Scarlet Fever										
Whooping Cough... ..										
Diphtheria and Croup										
Erysipelas										
Tuberculous Meningitis										
Abdominal Tuberculosis										
Other Tuberculous Diseases										
Meningitis (<i>not</i> <i>Tuberculous</i>)								I		
Convulsions										
Laryngitis										
Bronchitis			I	I		I	I			
Pneumonia (all forms)										
Diarrhoea										
Enteritis										
Gastritis		I								
Syphilis										
Rickets										
Suffocation, overlying										
Injury at Birth										
Atelectasis	I									
Congenital Malformations										
Premature Birth	I									
Atrophy, Debility and	2									
Marasmus		I								
Other Causes							I			
Totals	4	2	I	I		I	2	I		

Nett Births in the year :—Legitimate, ; Illegitimate,

Nett Deaths in the year of Legitimate Infants, ; Illegitimate Infants,

